

Northampton Policing Review Commission  
Alternatives to Policing Subcommittee Agenda  
Tuesday, December 22, 2020  
11AM-12:30PM  
Remote Meeting

**Join the Remote Meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/97129999166?pwd=MjZDUktkcHhBbnVYMFFpVTBQWkQ2dz09>

**Meeting ID:** 971 2999 9166 **Passcode:** 871660

**Or by telephone, call:** +1 929 436 2866

1. Call to Order by meeting chair
  - a. Announcement of Zoom Recording
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Approval of Meeting Minutes
2. Preparation of subcommittee report for the Larger commission
  - Mental Health Response
  - Domestic Violence/sexual abuse
  - Community based policing
  - Restorative Justice
  - Substance abuse
  - Employment
3. Adjourn

## **1.MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido at 11:08 PM.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING**

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido made an announcement that this meeting was being recorded for the public record and would be available on Northampton Open Media, as well as, the City of Northampton website.

## **Roll Call**

Dr. Booker Bush, Co-Chair Present

Javier Luengo-Garrido, Co-Chair Present

City Councilor Alex Jarrett Present

Carol Owen Not Present

## **2. Preparation of subcommittee report for the Larger commission**

- Mental Health Response
- Domestic Violence/sexual abuse
- Community based policing
- Restorative Justice
- Substance abuse
- Employment

The Commissioners discuss how to combine their preliminary report writing into one document.

The Commissioners read through the preliminary report.

Commission member Lois Ahrens (Spending & Contracts) said looking at the document, it seems to her in terms of Alternatives, the focus is on people who are unhoused and somatic violence. She said there's more policing that goes on that could call for alternatives in terms of other populations of people like people who are in public housing that get a lot of policing, specifically people with substance use issues who aren't specifically named here. She said during the last Policing Policies committee, Commissioner Elizabeth Barajas-Roman spoke in detail about the lack of police response to sexual violence which was excellent and important. She said the people who have gotten the most attention are the people who we can see and that there are many more people who are being policed that we can't see. She also mentioned police complaints and that there is no way for community members to complain about their

experience with police, outside of the policing system itself. She said these things seem important to her to address going forward in terms of the alternatives needed for policing for people who are not necessarily seen.

Commissioner Javier Luengo-Garrido said the committee has talked about starting to talk about Domestic Violence, public housing, and sexual abuse as important topics and that the committee is hoping to touch base on in the coming months.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett talked about the timeline of editing the commission has to complete within the hour, in preparation to receive feedback at tonight's full commission meeting. He mentioned clearly listing the topics the committee hasn't yet covered is something that can be included in the report.

Commissioner Booker Bush said Black and brown people experience houselessness at higher rates, but there is no mention about race in the city's panhandling report. He wondered how to include Black Lives Matter as important context in the report.

Community member Ya-Ping Douglass asked whether it's okay to put comments in the documents or share comments during the meetings.

Commissioner Booker Bush said he prefers hearing what community members are thinking rather than making a comment on the document itself.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett said especially if they're small edits which would be helpful to see in the document, any form of comment is appropriate at this time.

Community member Ya-Ping Douglass suggested police response to domestic violence calls is undesired by a lot of people and that the report doesn't highlight the ways it directly harms survivors in the moment.

Commissioner Alex Jarrett asked if Ya Ping can comment in the document in the specific part of the document they mentioned.

Community member Ed Olmstead said he is thinking of other encounters with the police people have, such as when visiting Northampton from a town that has a higher population of black and people of color who might be looking for access to recreation areas or water resources during the summer. He said besides people who live here, we have others that encounter the police in our department and there could be some improvements in that.

Commission member Lois Ahrens (Spending & Contracts) said she spoke to Brian Foote from the Arts Council and said it's the only example of a city department that gets city money, raises money, and grants money to other individuals and organizations and has an advisory board that is built for accountability and contact with the arts groups they were funding. She said there is precedent for some kind of structure within the city that does these things.

Community member Ashwin Ravikumar offered suggestions to the commission about their writing process and mentioned assigning one person to consolidate the writing and big picture comments could be helpful.

Community member Ya-ping Douglass voiced a comment they added into the document about existing social services organizations as well as initiatives the city has put in place. They said it seems like these organizations and initiatives don't have mechanisms to be accountable to houseless community or places for members to have a direct voice. They suggested adding something about that in the report.

The commissioners discussed Community member Ashwin Ravikumar's comment about assigning one commissioner to finalize the report.

#### 4. Adjourn

**Commissioner Booker Bush moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:28pm. Commissioner Alex Jarrett seconded the motion. The Motion to adjourn was passed unanimously by roll call.**